

VFW POST 604 NEWS

V.F.W. Mission Statement

The purpose of this corporation (VFW) shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever.

WWW.VFW-604.NET

December 2014

Commander's Corner

Hello Everyone!

As this year comes to an end, let us pause and remember those who are no longer with us and all of our comrades that are serving all around the world. Let us all pray for peace and goodwill everywhere.

We have made great progress at the Post with our construction and new activities that we are now doing. We are looking forward to a new year. I want to thank all of you who have given so much to make our Post such a success throughout the year. Keep looking at our newsletter to keep up with all our activities and specials. When you receive this letter, we will be beginning the month of December. If your dues are running out, take a little time and renew them so we can continue to have the support we need to keep our Post growing.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous NEW YEAR and may God bless you all.

Joe Hardin, Commander



DON'T FORGET OUR CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014, 11AM TO 1PM
(Sign-up sheet in bar area)

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

YO!

November sure was a busy month, all you can eat fish – 2nd Friday – Tenderloins on Sunday, Veterans Day meal, poker ea. Thurs and 1st Sunday. Veterans Day was Ham beans and cornbread w/desserts. Dennis, Frank, and Steve prepared the ham beans – fried taters, the ladies provided cornbread and desserts. The Men's aux. decided one meal wasn't enough for our veterans, so we extended the celebration thru Sunday: FREE "tenderloins for our Heros and still just \$5.00 for everyone else. (How about them apples) Speaking of honoring our veterans, Tim Dittmore provided "free" oil changes to all veterans at his 3 Meineke stores. Tim is a very big supporter of the VFW Post 604. Many, Many thanks.

Something everyone should notice shortly – the west side of the building is going to be re-done – (New Siding). Paid for by the Men's Aux. This will happen at first break of cold weather. (Hopefully between Thanksgiving and Christmas) Just trying to spiff up a bit. Another little spiff up was under the deck. Barney and Dorothy's son built a stone wall, which stopped the mud and excess water from running out onto the patio. Nice Job.

The post has several things going on! Hot Dog Monday's w/Deb, 1st Friday – Kathy's in the kitchen – 2nd Friday Men's Aux Fish Fry – 3rd Friday – Post steak night and 4th Friday is Julie and the Ladies Aux. If you've not been at the "NEW" Post, you're missing out on some FANTASTIC MEALS. That and Texas Hold-em every Thursday night and Texas Hold-em "cash" the 1st Sunday ea. Month.

I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and have a very-very Merry Christmas.

OH! Pert near forgot. 1st Saturday of December "Childrens Christmas Party" – downstairs – see Sandi

Tim Haney, President Men's Auxiliary

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Merry Christmas Ladies

We've had a very busy month and I am so proud of all the help we had to represent the VFW Ladies Aux. 604. Thanks to Dorothy White, Sandi Taylor, Sarah Dennison, Julie Martin, Millie Briles, Liz Blackburn, and if I forgot you, I am so sorry. This was for Veterans Day. We were so glad to have 8 flag holders this year. I would like to thank Kathy Haney for helping me downstairs.

For our children and grandchildren, Dorothy White and Sandi Taylor are planning a Christmas party. It will be Saturday, Dec 6th, 11am to 1pm. Thank you to our Veterans and Men's Aux. for helping finance it. The signup sheet is at the post for children 0 to 11 yrs of age.

I would like to say the club is getting great use of the nice deck that was built this spring. Cmdr. Joe Hardin and our Veterans are cooking some great steaks out there the 3rd Friday of every month. For just \$10.00 you can get the best steak dinner in town. Which also brings me to this subject. If your husband is a veteran and a member of the post or any post you are eligible to join the Ladies Aux. We would be happy to have you in our organization. And if you are a member now and haven't paid your dues, remember after Dec 31st you will not be in good standing. Also, this month I donated 50 cancer turbins to the Olcott Center for cancer. They were made by Aux. members.

I know this is long but things are busy at this club and I would love to have you all come to see us.

**Julia Curtis, President
VFW Ladies Auxiliary
Phone (812) 822-0028**

TAPS

Phillip Keith Pate Sr.
Past Commander VFW Post 604 (2006-2007)
Past Adjutant VFW Post 604
Life Member VFW Post 604
28 year member American Legion Post 18

He was a U.S. Navy Veteran of Korean Service and China Service

To the family and friends:
With each passing day, things will become easier.
This is to let you know that there is tremendous support behind you today and always.

Phil will be missed by all the Men and Women of the VFW Post 604 and the VFW 7th District.

**James C. Arnold, Chaplin
VFW Post 604
Past VFW 7th District Commander**

THE END OF ANOTHER YEAR IS NEAR!!

But we have a lot going on at Post 604 until then--such as the 1st Friday of the month is on Dec. 5th and our 1st FRIDAY OF THE MONTH DINNER SPECIAL will feature a Spaghetti Dinner complete with Garlic Toast & Salad and still just \$5.00

We are NOT going to have a SUNDAY opening this month as the Mens Aux. have decided to take a much deserved break. We strongly agree with them and want to THANK them for putting on our SUNDAYS for the whole Year!! But now, they insure us that they will be back next month with their Big Ole Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins!! We look forward to it Guys!!!

Good meal deal here>>>>Mens Aux. Fish Dinner on the 2nd Friday of the month (Dec 12th)-all you can eat!! 3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT—(Dec 19th) 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just \$10. Yep! That's right—just \$10

Okay, after all of the above we have the Post 604 Holiday schedule—here we go! Christmas Eve (24th) falls on a Wednesday so we will be OPEN from 4:00 pm till 8:00 pm. We will have snacks for you to munch on also. Then come Christmas Day—the Post will be CLOSED. Then we get to the 31st (Wednesday) New Years Eve—well heck yes we are going to be OPEN at 4:00 pm and close at ?????? This year we are going to try something really different—for food we are going to have a Pot Luck Pitch-In—we ask that you bring your favorite dish, maybe a dessert also and from there we will just wing our way into 2015!! So make plans to come out and celebrate New Years Eve with us----mighty fine people we are here at Post 604!!! New Years Day the Post will be CLOSED.

The House Committee would like to wish all of our Post Volunteers along with Active Military Personnel, Veterans and their families (where ever they might be this year) a Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

HOUSE COMMITTEE



**FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH DINNER SPECIAL
DECEMBER 5TH**

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

December 2014

Closed Sunday	Open 1200 - 2200 Monday	Open 1600 - 2200 Tuesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Wednesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Thursday	Open 1600 - 2200 Friday	Open 1000 - 2200 Saturday
	1	2	3	4  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1900	5 Serving Dinner 1800-2100 Friday Night Special Somalia Campaign Began (1992) Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	6  VFW Children's Christmas Party 11am to 1pm
7  Cash Game Starts at 1pm National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 HOT DOG MONDAY War Declared on Japan (1941) <small>Open @ Noon</small>	9	10	11  Starts at 7pm Germany & Italy Decl. War on US (1941) * Vet to Vet – 1900	12 Serving Dinner 1800-2100  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	13
14	15 HOT DOG MONDAY Iraq War ended (2011) <small>Open @ Noon</small>	16 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800	17	18  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1900	19 Serving Dinner 1800 – 2100  Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @1900	20
21 Winter Begins	22 HOT DOG MONDAY <small>Open @ Noon</small>	23	24 POST OPEN 4PM TO 8PM	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS POST WILL BE CLOSED	26 Post open at 2pm Commander's Drawing @ 1900	27
28	29 HOT DOG MONDAY <small>Open @ Noon</small>	30	31 OFFICIAL END OF WWII (1946) POT LUCK PITCH IN DINNER Post open 4pm to ????			

(* For Vet-to-Vet Held at IVY Tech, 200 Daniels Way room A118 – Check website <http://www.vetovetbloomington.com/> to confirm location)

Telephone Number **(812) 339-2375**

Charity Game Night License # **134469**

Raffle License # **134470**

Water Cooled

It reminded me of the opening scene in an imitation Hitchcock, grade B movie. James Livingston, an Indianapolis Regional Office employee whom I barely knew, walked directly toward my temporarily assigned desk in the walk-in area on the first floor of the federal building. He bypassed the Dragon Lady receptionist without speaking. James was a permanent member of the local regional office appeals board. He introduced himself while handing me the claim folder for Michael Boggs.

"John, Mr. Boggs has an appeal hearing at one o'clock up in room 342. He has no appointed representative organization. Will you represent him?" I had sat in on a grand total of two local appeal hearings during my preceding three years as a veteran's benefits counselor. "Sure. Can you tell me something about the case?"

"It's in the folder." James then paused and – honest, he really did – looked both ways. He bent over slightly and added in a lowered voice, "Look at the date on the separation physical." He then quickly returned to his full height of over six feet and walked away, not looking back. Presumably returning to his third floor desk near the stark appeal room with its one table and six chairs.

I was relieved from helping any more walk-in veterans while preparing for the hearing, one hour away. When opened like a book a veteran's claim folder, the "C-file", has temporary documents such as compensation award input sheets on the left hand side. Permanent documents such as original application forms, copies of military separation documents, medical examinations, and rating decisions are on the right. Both the left and the right sides of the reddish-brown heavy cardboard folder are pierced at the top edge with two small holes to match the metal "binders" which held the papers – all similarly pierced at the top edge – inside the folder. This folder was easy to read. It was less than two inches thick.

I could not help but notice the more recent items on the right side as I flipped through toward the beginning of the story at the bottom of the chronologically arranged documents. Sometime around ten years earlier the veteran had indicated disagreement with the Veterans Administration's denial of his claim for service connected disability for his left knee. He'd tried to raise the issue again more recently, but without success. He'd let more than one year elapse after the date of the initial denial without complaint and thereby left behind his initial appeal right and drifted unwittingly into the land of "We'll reopen your claim if you submit some germane evidence which was not available at the time of the original decision and if we feel reopening is justified". I made a mental note. Somebody had come up with something or the case would not be being considered for reopening and I would not be preparing for a hearing.

On that new quest I reversed course and flipped back toward the front/more current. The letters from the veteran still bore his signature, but the grammar was much improved, the writing was more legible, the composition more logical. Another mental note, although this one was more to satisfy my curiosity than help prepare for the hearing. I found that the reason for the hearing was that Mr. Boggs requested one through which to explain his basis for reopening face-to-face. Someone on the appeals board, I suspected Jim Livingston, had been unusually sympathetic and granted the hearing.

I resumed delving into the more distant past and found the separation physical to which Mr. Livingston had referred. The content was not significantly different than millions of other separation physicals except for three things: The Army doctor had concluded that Corporal Boggs' documented left knee condition was 1) congenital (he actually had written the words "loose knee") and 2) probably aggravated by a high school baseball injury mentioned by Corporal Boggs in the RFAD (release from active duty interview. Number three? The doctor had signed and dated the physical at 5:30pm on 31 December 1955. New Years Eve.

Twelve fifteen. Mr. Michael Boggs walks in with his wife, Margaret. We all shake hands and sit down at my temporary desk. Within less than a minute it becomes clear how barely high school educated, farm laborer, good old boy Michael Boggs could suddenly write so persuasively and why he had become so much more aggressive in pursuing his long-denied claim. Margaret was driving the train. Her man had been done wrong. She was writing the letters for his signature. Margaret may not have been to college but she was certainly a sharp lady.

I tried to clarify the high school baseball injury. Michael replied that, yes, he had hurt his knee playing baseball his senior year but it had healed without surgery and he had played ball the remainder of that season. Additionally, he had worked without restriction on a farm for several months before enlisting in the Army. He never wore a supportive brace or bandage. Michael had, obviously, passed the pre-enlistment physical administered in Indianapolis. The same place and the same physical I had gone through on my way to the Marine Corps fourteen years later. All major joints, especially knees, drew a lot of attention during entrance physicals. I thought I had enough information to at least cast some doubt on the Army doctor's opinion regarding the "congenitally loose knee".

I thought about Livingston's whispered comment and the New Years Eve separation physical. I knew Livingston would be one of the three VA specialists on the regional office appeal panel. I also suspected that one other gentleman I sort of knew, a Mr. Frazier, would be the VA lead panel member. I liked Frazier. (A few years later I worked with his daughter, Stephanie, in the Human Resources Branch, Indianapolis District Office, Internal Revenue Service. I had bailed out of the VA for more money at IRS.) I guessed that two of the three panel members would be sympathetic to Mr. Boggs.

Margaret carefully offered, one at a time, documents she had brought in a cardboard box. Most were duplicates of records and letters already in Michael's claim folder. Except one.

To be continued.

John Tilford – Service Officer

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604
2404 W Industrial Park Drive
Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
BLOOMINGTON IN 47401
PERMIT No. 205

"Oldest Post in the State"

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Phone: (812)-339-2375

